



REMARKS

Currently, claims 10-15 and 45-54 are pending in the application, of which claims 10, 45 and 51 are independent. In view of the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10, 11, 13, 15, 45-47, 50-52 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,433,842 issued to Kaneko, et al. ("Kaneko"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

This application claims priority from two foreign patent applications: Korean Patent Application No. 1999-67763 filed **December 31, 1999** and Korean Patent Application No. 2000-19711 filed April 14, 2000. Kaneko was filed **March 29, 2000**, which was **later** than the priority date of Korean Patent Application No. 1999-67763.

Independent claims 10, 45 and 51 are supported by Korean Patent Application No. 1999-67763, of which the English translation is enclosed in the Appendix for the Examiner's review. Kaneko no longer qualifies as prior art for Independent claims 10, 45 and 51. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 10, 45 and 51 and dependent claims 11, 13, 15, 46, 47, 50, 52 and 54.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 49 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 49 is dependent from claim 45. As mentioned above, Kaneko no longer qualifies as prior art for Independent claim 45. No secondary reference has been introduced. Since the only reference for this rejection does not qualify as prior art, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 49.

Claims 12 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,266,110 issued to Mizuno et al. ("Mizuno"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 12 and 53 are dependent from claims 10 and 51, respectively. As mentioned above, Kaneko no longer qualifies as prior art for independent claims 10 and 51. Since the primary reference of this rejection no longer qualifies as prior art, claims 10 and 51 are patentable over Mizuno. Dependent claims 12 and 53 would also be patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 12 and 53.

Claims 14 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,548,961 issued to Barth et al. ("Barth"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 14 and 48 are dependent independent claims 10 and 45. As mentioned above, Kaneko no longer qualifies as prior art for independent claims 10 and 45. Since the primary reference of this rejection no longer qualifies as prior art, claims 10 and 45 are patentable over Barth. Dependent claims 14 and 48 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 14 and 48.


Conclusion

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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APPENDIX: English translation of Korean patent application No. 1999-67763
Statement verifying accuracy of translation

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